

# FLORIDA AGRICULTURIST

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Subscribers when writing to have the address of their paper changed MUST give the old as well as the new address.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1906.

## The Florida State Horticultural Society.

Are you making your plans to be present at the nineteenth annual meeting of this society, which will be held in Jacksonville, early in May? A full attendance of all members is always desired, and we hope that each of you will bring one or more new members with you. You can assure each one whom you ask to join, that they will not regret it. That the reports are worth the price of membership, as books of reference, and the meetings themselves have always been so interesting and instructive that we do not think that any one who has attended one of these meetings has ever regretted the time lost or the money expended in making the trip.

We hope to be able to report the largest attendance that has ever been known. Come, and come prepared to do your share towards making it a pleasant and profitable meeting.

## The Torrens System.

We are anxious that this system should be adopted by the legislature of this state. It would effect a great saving of time and money to every one who buys or sells real-estate. No one can possibly object to it except the Abstract men, the clerks who record titles and the lawyers who make a profit both from looking up titles and from the litigation that arises from disputed ownership.

As we believe in the greatest good for the greatest number, we hope that the next legislature will not overlook this important reform.

## Co-operative Horse Ownership.

The Rural New Yorker publishes an account of a company in Western New York which bought, in 1905, a stallion of the German Coach breed. The price was \$3,000 and the company consists of 15 members, each of whom owns stock to the amount of \$200. The horse is put in charge of one man who keeps him at a stipulated price per year.

We give these particulars as an example of what can be done. The number of stockholders can be increased or diminished as is convenient, but the plan has worked well elsewhere and would do the same in Florida. We hope that some of our stockmen will take up the business of raising horses and mules. We believe that there is more profit in it than in any other branch of the stock business.

## The Free Seed Humbug.

We have been requested to say something about the free distribution of seed by the government. We do not think that we can improve upon what we wrote about it, for the paper of December 28, which was as follows:

The annual distribution of free seeds from the Department of Agriculture through the Senators and members of the House of Representatives has begun. We have seen some of the packages sent to persons in this state. They contain 5 packets of the most common varieties, such as beet, Georgia collard, lettuce, yellow Danvers onion, and Florida Favorite watermelon. The packets are no larger than the usual 5 cent packet, for sale at any seed store and the varieties are the most common on the list. Probably not one packet in a hundred is ever planted. Yet Congressmen go on trying to bribe the voters of the country with a quarter's worth of ordinary garden seeds. It would be just as reasonable for them to give the voters each a new hat or a new pair of shoes. Of course it would cost more, and the shoe dealers and hat-makers would object, but what of that? the seedsmen also object but no one pays any attention to them.

The original idea in starting the seed distribution was a good one, that was to find and introduce new and valuable species that are not in cultivation in this country. A little of this is still being done and in this way some very useful plants have been brought into general cultivation.

The agricultural press has been fighting this outrageous fraud for many years, but so far with but little success. So long as the voters accept these seeds without protest, just so long will the Congressmen continue to send them out.

We may add that the committee which had the appropriation in charge has voted to strike out the item for free seeds. Of course this does not settle the matter as the item may be restored when it comes up before the House.

## Dust Spray.

A few years ago the idea was introduced to the public that a dust spray was just as effective as a liquid spray in fighting insect enemies of the orchardist and orange grower. The idea at once became quite popular and still has its advocates. Scientific investigation, however, has shown that the dust spray is not only not so

good as the liquid spray, but that it is useless and a great waste of money.

This is the substance of a report made by Prof. C. S. Crandall, in Illinois, as reported by Farm and Fireside. The professor was very emphatic in his statements and while acknowledging that it was less expense to use the dust spray method, he stated most positively that it was worthless as a means of combating insects and that money so spent was simply wasted.

## Unjust Discrimination.

The question of freight rates will not down until it is settled justly.

We have read the defence, of one of the officers of the East Coast R. R., as published in the newspapers and must say that it is very lame. We cannot conceive of anything that would justify a railroad in making such a difference in rates as is made on shipments of pineapples from Cuba over these made from points on the East Coast.

It reminds us of the objections that the New England papers are making to the proposed railroad rate bill. They say that if it becomes a law the roads will not be allowed to make the same discrimination in favor of New England manufacturers that they do now, and then the business will be transferred to the Southern states where they are so much nearer to the source of supplies that they will get much lower rates of transportation, and the New England factories can no longer hold their trade. We believe in equal freight rates for equal distances. If any business cannot be carried on at any location and pay a fair freight rate, then it is time to give it up and try some other line. The exact figures of the difference in rates is given in an article which you will find elsewhere, this week.

## The Dade County Fair.

The Dade County Fair has been a grand success this year. The newspapers report a very fine display and a large attendance of visitors.

One exhibitor showed a collection of 21 varieties of fruits and vegetables, all gathered from his place, near Miami, within a few days of the opening of the fair.

One of the packing companies had a fine exhibition of fruits and vegetables packed ready for shipment.

Another feature was the display of fruit products, such as marmalades, preserves, jellies, etc. There were many different entries in this line. One lady showed 120 varieties of preserves, all of her own manufacture.

A new feature this year was the poultry department, in which there were several entries.

## Draining The Everglades.

We quote, this week, another article from the Times-Union, which argues the impossibility of carrying this scheme to a successful termination. There are certainly some very grave reasons against the spending of the large sums of money necessary, on an enterprise of uncertain utility.

It is only fair, however, to say that Gov. Broward has been making speeches in answer to the charge that we have more land than we can use and therefore do not need the everglades. He says that very little of

the land now open to cultivation is suitable for the cultivation of sugar cane. That the everglades contain thousands of acres of the best sugar land in this country and that drained and planted to sugar cane it will be a source of great revenue to the state.

## Making Country Homes Attractive.

We urge the careful study of an article which we find in the Southern Planter. There are too many homes where the surroundings are not what they should be. A little time and trouble will make a great difference in the looks of a home. Home ought to be the most pleasant place in the world to the children, a place that they are sorry to leave and glad of any excuse for returning.

While sitting around the fireside these long winter evenings, we farmers have much time for thought and reflection. And as I sit thus musing, my thoughts turn to that all important subject to the farmer, how to keep the young people on the farm and make them satisfied with their surroundings. So I have jotted down a few of my thoughts, hoping that they may strike the key note of the situation and may stimulate some brother farmer to greater efforts in this direction.

It is a lamentable fact that our boys from the country crowd to the large cities in search of employment, at wages that hardly pay their expenses, rather than stay on the farm.

There must be a cause for this; do we, as fathers and farmers, do all we can to remedy this state of things?

Did you ever take a drive into the country, in any state you may name in this grand country of ours, and stop at the house for a drink of water? You could not see the house till you got quite to it, on account of the weeds and briars in the yards and fence corners; and as you walked to the house, you had to wade through an immense chip yard, in imminent danger of getting enough fleas to keep you busy for a week to come. You notice several panes of glass out of the windows (for ventilation, of course), and as you step to the door to knock, you are in danger of falling through the porch floor where there is a board rotted away.

It is just dinner time, and as all country people are hospitable, you are invited to sit down and eat. You accept. While it is mid-summer and orchards are loaded with fruit and the gardens are full of good things, you did not have any at the meal, which is composed of salt meat, bread, and probably potatoes, and some wild fruit the children have gathered in the woods.

As you pass into the front room you notice two mottoes, given to these people when they were married by some kind old aunt who had more time than money, and entertained fond hopes that this home would be a model one. One of these mottoes reads, "Home, Sweet Home," and the other one is, "God Bless Our Home." Could He bless such a home without performing a miracle?

Some one says, "But, you have overdrawn the average country home." I am glad to say I have, although I have been in just such homes.

Are we doing all in our power to make our homes attractive, and to interest our children in their rural homes? If not, let us begin now to do so. A man does not have to be rich to have a beautiful home. Clean up the fence corners and yards. Paint the house, inside and out. Let the boys try their hand at it; they cannot learn younger. Fix the girls some flower beds; interest them in the chickens and bees. What boy does not hail with delight any improvement in the live stock of the farm, whether it be a horse or a new cow or pig, or even some thoroughbred chickens? It inspires new energy in taking care of them. A boy is not